In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of discovering trade secrets of an organization, such method comprising the steps of:

collecting sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets through an input device of a computer from a plurality of persons of the organization into a database of the computer;

the computer analyzing the collected sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets using logical and mathematical formulae to identify and eliminate any redundancy among the sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets to define a collection of descriptive information about potential trade secrets of the organization; and

the computer generating a report containing the non-redundant descriptive information about potential trade secrets of the organization.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 1 wherein the analysis step implemented within the computer further comprises:

correlating among the sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets having at least some redundant entries to identify sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets that are related by redundancy and sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets that are unrelated; and

integrating redundant entries among the respective sets into compiled sets of <u>descriptive information about potential trade secrets</u> with non-redundant entries that together with the sets of <u>descriptive information about potential trade secrets</u> with unrelated entries define a collection of <u>descriptive information about potential trade secrets</u>.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 2, wherein the step of collecting sets of <u>descriptive information about potential trade secrets</u> further comprises conducting interviews of each person of the plurality of persons over an electronics communications network.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 3, further comprising downloading a web form containing a plurality of information entry fields that request <u>descriptive information about potential trade secrets</u> from each person of the plurality of persons.

5.   (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 2, further comprising collecting information from each person of the plurality of persons regarding the identities of a plurality of other persons who may have information about the trade secrets of the organization.

6.   (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 5, further comprising collecting said identities

by means of conducting interviews of each person of the plurality of persons over an electronics communications network.

7. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 6 further comprising downloading a web form containing a plurality of information entry fields that request said identities from each person of the plurality of persons.

8. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 2, further comprising collecting information from each person of the plurality of persons regarding the locations of the trade secrets of the organization.

9. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 8, further comprising collecting said information on locations by means of conducting interviews of each person of the plurality of persons over an electronics communications network.

10. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 9 further comprising downloading a web form containing a plurality of information entry fields that request said information on locations from each person of the plurality of persons.

11. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 2 wherein the step of correlating further

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comprises matching respective information entry fields of the plurality of fields of the database entries and marking entries with matching fields as belonging to a single potential trade secret group.

12.   (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 11 wherein the plurality of information entry fields so matched further comprises a field for a subject matter of the trade secret.

13.   (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 11 wherein the plurality of information entry fields so matched further comprises a field for a format of the trade secret.

14.   (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 11 wherein the plurality of information entry fields so matched further comprises a field for a product or service enhanced by the trade secret.

15.   (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 11 wherein the step of correlating further comprises performing key word searching of the plurality of fields of each potential trade secret group.

16.   (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 15, further comprising improving the performance of said correlation by replacing any keywords encountered that are associated with a corresponding master keyword in

a table of synonym keywords with the corresponding master keyword.

17. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 15 wherein the step of correlating further comprises subdividing each potential trade secret group into more specific sub-groups based on the analysis of keywords contained in the plurality of fields.

18. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 17 wherein the step of correlating further comprises subdividing each potential trade secret group into more specific sub-groups where each sub-group has at least a predefined number of keywords in common.

19. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 18, wherein the step of integrating further comprises using common keywords from keyword fields of multiple potential trade secret entries being integrated as a common keyword field in the resulting non-redundant trade secret entry.

20. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 18, wherein the step of integrating further comprises using non-common keywords and their frequency of occurrence in the keyword field of multiple potential trade secret entries being integrated as a non-common keyword field in the resulting non-redundant trade secret entry.

21. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 2 wherein the step of integrating further comprises forming predetermined mathematical quantities to represent a characteristic value and an error range for each numerical field of the plurality of trade secret entries being integrated.

22. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 21 wherein the step of integrating further comprises forming an arithmetic mean to represent the characteristic value for each numerical field of the plurality of trade secret entries being integrated.

23. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 21 wherein the step of integrating further comprises forming a standard deviation to represent the error range for each numerical field of the plurality of trade secret entries being integrated.

24. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 2, further comprising generating data mining signatures from the collected trade secret information, or by the results of logical or mathematical formulae applied thereto.

25. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 2, further comprising generating content filtering signatures from the collected trade secret information, or

by the results of logical or mathematical formulae applied thereto.

26. (Original) The method of discovering trade secrets as in claim 2, further comprising generating electronic document scanning signatures from the collected trade secret information, or by the results of logical or mathematical formulae applied thereto.

27. (Currently Amended) A programmed computer for discovering trade secrets of an organization, such system comprising:

means for collecting sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets from a plurality of persons of the organization into a database;

means for analyzing the collected sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets using logical and mathematical formulae to identify and eliminate any redundancy among the sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets to define a collection of descriptive information about potential trade secrets of the organization; and

means for generating a report containing the non-redundant descriptive information about potential trade secrets of the organization.

28. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 27 wherein the means for analysis further comprises:

means for correlating among the sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets having at least some redundant entries to identify sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets that are related by redundancy and sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets that are unrelated; and

means for integrating redundant entries among the respective sets into compiled sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets with non-redundant entries that together with the sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets with unrelated entries define a collection of descriptive information about potential trade secrets.

29. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 28, wherein the means for collecting sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets further comprises means for conducting interviews of each person of the plurality of persons over an electronics communications network.

30. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 29, further comprising means for downloading a web form containing a plurality of information entry fields that request descriptive information about potential trade secrets from each person of the plurality of persons.

31. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 28, further

comprising means for collecting information from each person of the plurality of persons regarding the identities of a plurality of other persons who may have information about the trade secrets of the organization.

32. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 31, further comprising means for collecting said identities by means of conducting interviews of each person of the plurality of persons over an electronics communications network.

33. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 32 further comprising means for downloading a web form containing a plurality of information entry fields that request said identities from each person of the plurality of persons.

34. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 28, further comprising means for collecting information from each person of the plurality of persons regarding the locations of the trade secrets of the organization.

35. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 34, further comprising means for collecting said information on locations by means of conducting interviews of each person of the plurality of persons over an electronics communications network.

36. (Currently Amended) The <u>programmed computer</u> for discovering trade secrets as in claim 35 further comprising means for downloading a web form containing a plurality of information entry fields that request said information on locations from each person of the plurality of persons.

37. (Currently Amended) The <u>programmed computer</u> for discovering trade secrets as in claim 28 wherein the means for correlating further comprises means for matching respective information entry fields of the plurality of fields of the trade secret information entries and marking trade secret information entries with matching fields as belonging to a single potential trade secret group.

38. (Currently Amended) The <u>programmed computer</u> for discovering trade secrets as in claim 37 wherein the plurality of matching information entry fields so matched further comprises means for recording a field for a subject matter of the trade secret.

39. (Currently Amended) The <u>programmed computer</u> for discovering trade secrets as in claim 37 wherein the plurality of matching information entry fields so matched further comprises a field for a format of the trade secret.

40. (Currently Amended) The <u>programmed computer</u> for discovering trade secrets as in claim 37 wherein the plurality of matching information entry fields so matched

further comprises a field for a product or service enhanced by the trade secret.

41. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 37 wherein the means for correlating further comprises means for performing key word searching of the plurality of fields of each potential trade secret group.

42. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 41, further comprising means for improving the performance of said correlation by replacing any keywords encountered that are associated with a corresponding master keyword in a table of synonym keywords with the corresponding master keyword.

43. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 41 wherein the means for correlating further comprises means for subdividing each potential trade secret group into more specific sub-groups based on the analysis of keywords contained in the plurality of fields.

44. (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 43 wherein the means for correlating further comprises means for subdividing each potential trade secret group into more specific sub-groups where each sub-group has at least a predefined number of keywords in common.

45.   (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 44, wherein the means for integrating further comprises means for using common keywords from keyword fields of multiple potential trade secret entries being integrated as a common keyword field in the resulting non-redundant trade secret entry.

46.   (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 44, wherein the means for integrating further comprises means for using non-common keywords and their frequency of occurrence in the keyword field of multiple potential trade secret entries being integrated as a non-common keyword field in the resulting non-redundant trade secret entry.

47.   (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 28 wherein the means for integrating further comprises means for forming predetermined mathematical quantities to represent a characteristic value and an error range for each numerical field of the plurality of trade secret entries being integrated.

48.   (Currently Amended) The programmed computer for discovering trade secrets as in claim 47 wherein the means for integrating further comprises means for forming an arithmetic mean to represent the characteristic value for each numerical field of the plurality of trade secret entries being integrated.

49. (Currently Amended) The <u>programmed computer</u> for discovering trade secrets as in claim 47 wherein the means for integrating further comprises means for forming a standard deviation to represent the error range for each numerical field of the plurality of trade secret entries being integrated.

50. (Currently Amended) The <u>programmed computer</u> for discovering trade secrets as in claim 28, further comprising means for generating data mining signatures from the collected trade secret information, or by the results of logical or mathematical formulae applied thereto.

51. (Currently Amended) The <u>programmed computer</u> for discovering trade secrets as in claim 28, further comprising means for generating content filtering signatures from the collected trade secret information, or by the results of logical or mathematical formulae applied thereto.

52. (Currently Amended) The <u>programmed computer</u> for discovering trade secrets as in claim 28, further comprising means for generating electronic document scanning signatures from the collected trade secret information, or by the results of logical or mathematical formulae applied thereto.